

## The Facts About ... Small Business Development Center Program

### **SBA**

#### **U.S. Small Business Administration Championing America's Entrepreneurs**

## The Facts About ...

### Small Business Development Center Program

The U.S. Small Business Administration administers the Small Business Development Center Program to provide management assistance to current and prospective small business owners. SBDCs offer one-stop assistance to small businesses by providing a wide variety of information and guidance in central and easily accessible branch locations. The program is a cooperative effort of the private sector, the educational community, and federal, state and local governments. It enhances economic development by providing small businesses with management and technical assistance.

There are now 57 small business development centers - one in every state (Texas has four), the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam - with a network of more than 1,000 service locations. In each state there is a lead organization that sponsors the SBDC and manages the program. The lead organization coordinates program services offered to small businesses through a network of subcenters and satellite locations in each state. Subcenters are located at colleges, universities, community colleges, vocational schools, chambers of commerce and economic-development corporations.

SBDC assistance is tailored to the local community and the needs of individual clients. Each center develops services in cooperation with local SBA district offices to ensure statewide coordination with other available resources.

Each center has a director, staff members, volunteers and part-time personnel. Qualified individuals recruited from professional and trade associations, the legal and banking communities, academia, chambers of commerce and SCORE (the Service Corps of Retired Executives) are among those who donate their services.

SBDCs also use paid consultants, consulting engineers and testing laboratories from the private sector to help clients who need specialized expertise.

### ***What the Program Does***

The SBDC Program is designed to deliver up-to-date counseling, training and technical assistance in all aspects of small business management. SBDC services include, but are not limited to, assisting small businesses with financial,

marketing, production, organization, engineering and technical problems, and feasibility studies. Special SBDC programs and economic-development activities include international-trade assistance, technical assistance, procurement assistance, venture-capital formation and rural development.

The SBDCs also make special efforts to reach socially and economically disadvantaged groups, veterans, women and the disabled. Assistance is provided to both current and potential small business owners. SBDCs also provide assistance to small businesses applying for Small Business Innovation and Research grants from federal agencies.

### ***Eligibility***

SBDC assistance is available to anyone interested in starting or expanding a small business who cannot afford the services of a private consultant.

### ***Lead SBDCs***

- University of Alabama, Birmingham, AL (205) 934-7260
- University of Alaska/Anchorage, Anchorage, AK (907) 274-7232
- Maricopa County Community College, Tempe, AZ (602) 731-8720
- University of Arkansas, Little Rock, AR (501) 324-9043
- California Trade and Commerce Agency, Sacramento, CA (916) 324-5068
- Colorado Office of Business Development, Denver, CO (303) 892-3809
- University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT (203) 486-4135
- University of Delaware, Newark, DE (302) 831-2747
- Howard University, Washington, DC (202) 806-1550
- University of West Florida, Pensacola, FL (904) 444-2060
- University of Georgia, Athens, GA (706) 542-6762
- University of Guam, Mangilao, GU (671) 735-2590
- University of Hawaii at Hilo, Hilo, HI (808) 933-3515
- Boise State University, Boise, ID (208) 385-1640
- Department of Commerce and Community Affairs, Springfield, IL (217) 524-5856
- Economic Development Council, Indianapolis, IN (317) 264-6871
- Iowa State University, Ames, IA (515) 292-6351
- Fort Hays State University, Hays, KS (913) 296-6514
- University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY (606) 257-7668
- Northeast Louisiana University, Monroe, LA (318) 342-5506
- University of Southern Maine, Portland, ME (207) 780-4420
- University of Maryland, College Park, MD (301) 403-8300
- University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA (413) 545-6301
- Wayne State University, Detroit, MI (313) 964-1798
- Department of Trade and Economic Development, St. Paul, MN (612) 297-5770

- University of Mississippi, University, MS (601) 232-5001
- University of Missouri, Columbia, MO (314) 882-0344
- Department of Commerce, Helena, MT (406) 444-4780
- University of Nebraska at Omaha, Omaha, NE (402) 554-2521
- University of Nevada in Reno, Reno, NV (702) 784-1717
- University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH (603) 862-2200
- Rutgers University, Newark, NJ (201) 648-5950
- Santa Fe Community College, Santa Fe, NM (505) 438-1362
- State University of New York, Albany, NY (518) 443-5398
- University of North Carolina, Raleigh, NC (919) 715-7272
- University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND (701) 777-3700
- Department of Development, Columbus, OH (614) 466-2711
- Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Durant, OK (405) 924-0277
- Lane Community College, Eugene, OR (503) 726-2250
- University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA (215) 898-1219
- Inter-American University of Puerto Rico, San Juan, PR (787) 763-6811
- Bryant College, Smithfield, RI (401) 232-6111
- University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC (803) 777-4907
- University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD (605) 677-5498
- University of Memphis, Memphis, TN (901) 678-2500
- \*Dallas County Community College, Dallas, TX (214) 860-5833
- University of Houston, Houston, TX (713) 752-8444
- Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX (806) 745-3973
- University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, TX (210) 458-2450
- Salt Lake City Community College, Sandy, UT (801) 255-5878
- Vermont Technical College, Randolph Center, VT (802) 728-9101
- University of the Virgin Islands, St. Thomas, VI (809) 776-3206
- Department of Economic Development, Richmond, VA (804) 371-8258
- Washington State University, Pullman, WA (509) 335-1576
- West Virginia Development Office, Charleston, WV (304) 558-2960
- University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI (608) 263-7794
- University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY (307) 766-3505

### ***Funding***

The SBA provides 50 percent or less of the operating funds for each state SBDC. One or more sponsors provide the rest. These matching-fund contributions are provided by state legislatures, private-sector foundations and grants, state and local chambers of commerce, state-chartered economic-development corporations, public and private universities, vocational and technical schools, community colleges, etc. Increasingly, sponsors' contributions exceed the minimum 50 percent matching share.

### ***For More Information***

Information is power. Make it your business to know what is available, where to get it and, most importantly, how to use it. Sources of information include:

#### ***U.S. Small Business Administration***

- SBA District Offices
- SBA OnLine (electronic bulletin board)
- Business Information Centers (BICs)
- One-Stop Capital Shops (OSCSs)\*
- Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE)
- Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs)
- U.S. Export Assistance Centers (USEACs)\*
- Women's Business Centers (WBCs)\*
  - Inquire at your local SBA office as to availability.

The SBA has offices located throughout the United States. For the one nearest you, look under "U.S. Government" in your telephone directory, or call the SBA Answer Desk at (800) 8-ASK-SBA or (800) 827-5722. To send a fax to the SBA, dial (202) 205-7064. For the hearing impaired, the TDD number is (704) 344-6640.

To access the agency's electronic public information services, you may call:

SBA OnLine:

electronic bulletin board (modem and computer required)

- (800) 697-4636 (limited access)
- (900) 463-4636 (full access)
- (202) 401-9600 (D.C. metro area)

Internet:

using uniform resource locators (URLs)

- SBA home page: [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov)
- SBA gopher: <gopher.sba.gov>
- File transfer protocol: <ftp.sba.gov>
- Telnet: <telnet.sba.gov>
- U.S. Business Advisor: [www.business.gov](http://www.business.gov)

You may also request a free copy of The Resource Directory for Small Business Management, a listing of for-sale publications and videotapes, from your local SBA office or the SBA Answer Desk.

#### ***Other Sources of Information***

- State economic development agencies
- Chambers of commerce

- Local colleges and universities
- Libraries
- Manufacturers and suppliers of small business products and services
- Small business or industry trade associations

All of the SBA's programs and services are provided to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis.

**FS0043 (07/97)**